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THE MIDDLE EAST DEFENCE ORGANISATION

(R)

The Foreign Office now propose, as a result of discussions with the British Chiefs of Staff, the following amendments to the Memorandum on the Middle East Defence Organisation which was agreed by Working Party ad referendum to the United States and British Governments;

(a) Paragraph 5 - delete last sentence and substitute: "Ideally we should like to see the Planning Group established in Egypt, but we suggest Cyprus as the best alternative if conditions in Egypt make that impossible."

(b) Paragraph 6 - delete existing paragraph and substitute. "The Military Representatives Committee would consist of representatives of all states participating in the Organisation. It would be responsible for the general direction of the Planning Group and would meet periodically at the headquarters of the Planning Group, or alternatively in Washington where the necessary coordination between M.E.D.O. and N.A.T.O. planning could most readily be undertaken. The chairmanship of this committee would rotate."

(c) Delete paragraph 9.

(d) Paragraph 14 - delete existing paragraph and substitute: "The right line of approach to the Arab states would thus seem to be to inform them of the plans of the sponsoring powers and to indicate that we should welcome Arab association with the Organisation. We should then go ahead with the establishment of the Organisation and hope that as it proceeded with its work the Arab states, even if their initial reactions were not encouraging, would tend, individually or collectively, to cooperate progressively with it."

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Comments-SECTO 24

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MIDDLE EAST DEFENCE ORGANISATION

The Foreign Office propose to add the following additional amendment to the memorandum on the Middle East Defence Organisation which was agreed by a working party ad referendum to the United States and British Governments: Please add at the end of paragraph 8:

"When that stage is reached, higher military direction would be provided by the Permanent Military Representatives in Washington of the Standing Group Powers in association with the Military Representatives of Turkey, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa".

It is assumed that if the United States Government have any observations on this proposed addition to the paper, they will make them when the paper is officially communicated to them.

July 15th, 1952

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SECURITY INFORMATION

Furphy-MRC

June 24, 1952

Dear General Cabell:

As a result of Mr. Nitze's conversation with you last Friday afternoon, the comments on the U.K. draft memorandum on an Allied Middle East Defense Organization were revised to take account of the two points which he understood had been raised by the Joint Strategic Survey Committee. The changes occur in paragraphs 5 and 6. The comments were handed to representatives of the British Embassy on June 20.

I am sending you a copy of the comments as revised for your information. The Department also has transmitted a copy of these comments to the Secretary of Defense.

Sincerely yours,

John H. Ferguson
Deputy Director,
Policy Planning Staff

Enclosure:

Copy of revised version
of US Comments on UK draft
memo on MEDO of June 20, 1952

drafted by
Daspier-NEA

Major General Charles P. Cabell,
Director, Joint Chiefs of Staff,
Room 2E 928,
Pentagon.

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S/P:JHFerguson:sg

SECURITY INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
June 20, 1952

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U.S. COMMENTS ON THE UNITED KINGDOM
DRAFT MEMORANDUM ON AN ALLIED MIDDLE
EAST DEFENSE ORGANIZATION

Middle
East

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
S/P

1. The U.S. agrees with the U.K. as to the desirability of now making through diplomatic channels initial preparations looking toward the establishment of a Middle East defense organization.

2. The U.S. agrees that it is preferable to establish a defense organization rather than a command organization at this time, and that the organization might accordingly be termed the Middle East Defense Organization.

3. The U.S. regards the Middle East as an area of great importance, and is prepared to participate in the staff of such an organization, though this in no way implies any commitment to provide forces for the defense of the area.

4. The U.S. is willing to continue to provide military assistance to the area, but without any present alteration in existing priorities.

5. The U.S. conceives of a Middle East defense organization as a means of securing cooperation from the states of the area and therefore attaches great importance to the participation of the Arab States. The U.S. does not feel that it is necessary to set up qualifications for Arab membership in the organization, as initially constituted.

6. With respect to the details of the defense organization, the U.S. believes that some form of committee of military representatives is desirable and necessary and believes that the chairmanship of such a committee might be rotated among the members.

7. As to the structure of the projected Planning Body under such a committee, the U.S. is inclined to believe that a form of organization, following strictly command lines would not be presently desirable, and consequently that provision for a SACME designate is not required at this time. The U.S. would be prepared to support a British national as chairman of the Planning Body.

8. The U.S. believes that Turkey should play a large role in a Middle East defense organization because of Turkish strength in the area.

9. The U.S. believes that it is important that the planning group should perform its work with due reference to NATO plans which are relevant to the defense of the area, and that a coordinated US-UK-French-Turkish view should be brought to bear upon the work of the planning group as it develops.

10. The U.S. does not believe that a Steering Group consisting of the present NATO Standing Group members should constitute a part of the Middle East

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East defense organization but is of the opinion that the above objectives can be served by devising an ad hoc arrangement which will facilitate the coordination of the views of the four powers concerning Middle East defense problems on a continuing basis.

11. With respect to the functions of the organization, the U.S. is in substantial agreement with the UK proposals.

12. With respect to the location of the organization, the U.S. is of the opinion that Cyprus may well prove to be the best alternative to Egypt, if Egypt is not available. In the opinion of the U.S., however, the possibility of locating the organization in another of the Arab States should not be altogether excluded at this time.

13. The U.S. agrees that Israel cannot be included in a Middle East defense organization as a full member at this stage, but is of the opinion that some ad hoc arrangement for associating Israel with the planning work of the organization should be developed, when feasible.

14. If the U.S. and U.K. are in agreement on the points made above, the U.S. agrees that a memorandum on a Middle East Defense Organization, appropriately revised, should be circulated by the U.K.

15. After the development of substantial agreement among the Sponsoring Powers, the U.S. believes that there should be thorough diplomatic preparation through a four-power approach to the Arab States before invitations are issued to attend a conference for the purpose of establishing the organization. The U.S. believes that following diplomatic discussions with the Arab States, the situation should be reassessed as to what further steps should be taken in establishing the organization.

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